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# DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

12/5/78 PO  
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PTM 18151288  
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A-12	UNCLASSIFIED	ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
NO.		U.S. DEPT. OF STATE AIRGRAM INDICATOR
TO :	Department of State, Washington, D.C.	Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
	Amembassy Quito	(C) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny
E.O. 12065:	N/A	Exemption(s): 86
TAGS:	SEUM, AR	Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full
		( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to
		Date Declassify on Reason
FROM :	American Consulate General Guayaquil	DATE: Dec. 5, 1978
SUBJECT:	Disappearance of Chilean Citizens in Argentina	
REF :		

The following story was related to me by Maria Isabel Cristi Melero in the hope that perhaps the United States Government could take appropriate steps to obtain information concerning the disappearance of her brother Roberto Cristi Melero, her sister-in-law, Gloria Delard Cristi, and José Luis Appel and his wife Carmen Delard Appel. Mrs. Appel and Mrs. Cristi are sisters. All the aforementioned persons are Chilean citizens.

The story began on December 15, 1976 in Neuquen Argentina when José Appel, while walking down a street in Neuquen was forced into a automobile by unknown persons and was taken away, never to be seen again. Two days later his wife, Carmen, went to the police station to report the disappearance of her husband, and she too disappeared, never to be seen again. Their child had been left with neighbors and the neighbors were aware that Carmen was going to the police to report the disappearance of her husband. José Luis Appel had been a medical student in Chile and had fled to Argentina during the Allende regime. According to the informant, Maria Cristi, neither Mr. Appel nor his wife had been engaged in any political activities in Argentina, particularly the activities of the ERP or the Montonero subversive groups.

When the above mentioned neighbor could obtain no information about the disappearance of Mr. and Mrs. Appel, she wrote a letter to Gloria Cristi in Buenos Aires to inform her of the disappearance of the Appels and that the Appel baby was in her care. She said she would like to make arrangements to bring the baby to them in Buenos Aires. The baby was taken to Buenos Aires in January, 1977.

On January 27, 1977 the Cristi home, located at Castelle 1270B, Ramos Mejia, Buenos Aires, was invaded by about 40 armed persons who proceeded

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to tear up the apt., apparently searching for something. Roberto and Gloria Cristi were taken away by the men in a closed van described as a military vehicle. Two days later, police returned to the apt. to look things over, i.e. search the premises again. This information was given by a neighbor who identified the two men as police and who said that the police believed Mr. and Mrs. Cristi were ~~Montaneros~~. It is presumed that the Cristi's were taken to a military detachment. The above mentioned child of Mr. and Mrs. Appel was left in the Cristi apartment unattended and was found by neighbors later.

A report of the above was given by Ms. Cristi and her mother (unidentified) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Buenos Aires in April, 1977. The father of Gloria Cristi and Carmen Appel made a similar report to Amnesty International in Paris in January, 1977. To date, the family has received no information concerning the whereabouts of the Cristi's or the Appel's.

The address of Maria Isabel Cristi Melero is [ ]

is a Chilean National resident in Ecuador.

] Ms. Cristi

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Action requested:

If the Department feels that it is within the purview of the United States Government to make an inquiry into the above events, this information should be passed as appropriate for action.

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